

Why men shouldn't take messages

Infertility

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Objectives

- Define primary and secondary infertility
- Describe the causes of infertility
- Diagnosis and management of infertility

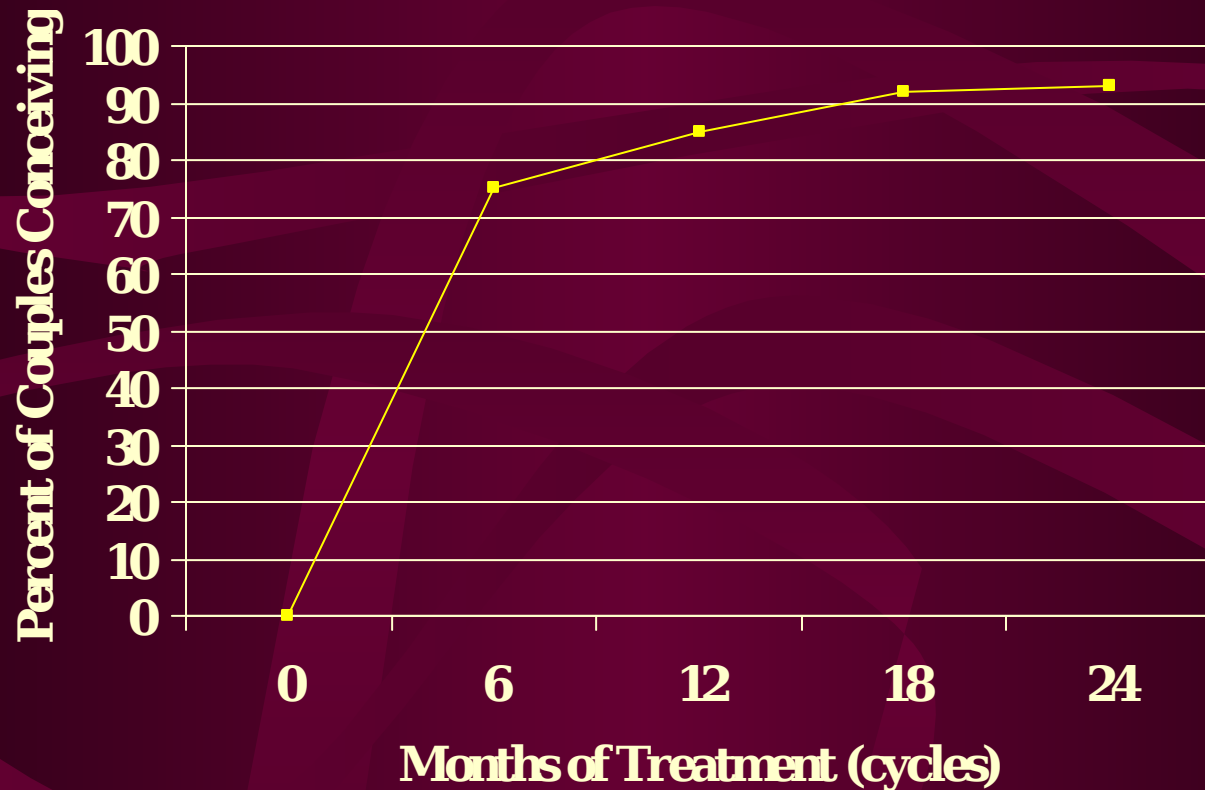
Infertility

- The inability to conceive following unprotected sexual intercourse
 - 1 year (age < 35) or 6 months (age >35)
 - Affects 15% of reproductive couples
- Reproductive age for women
 - Generally 15-44 years of age
 - Fertility is approximately halved between 37th and 45th year due to alterations in ovulation
- With the proper treatment 85% of infertile couples can expect to have a child.

Infertility

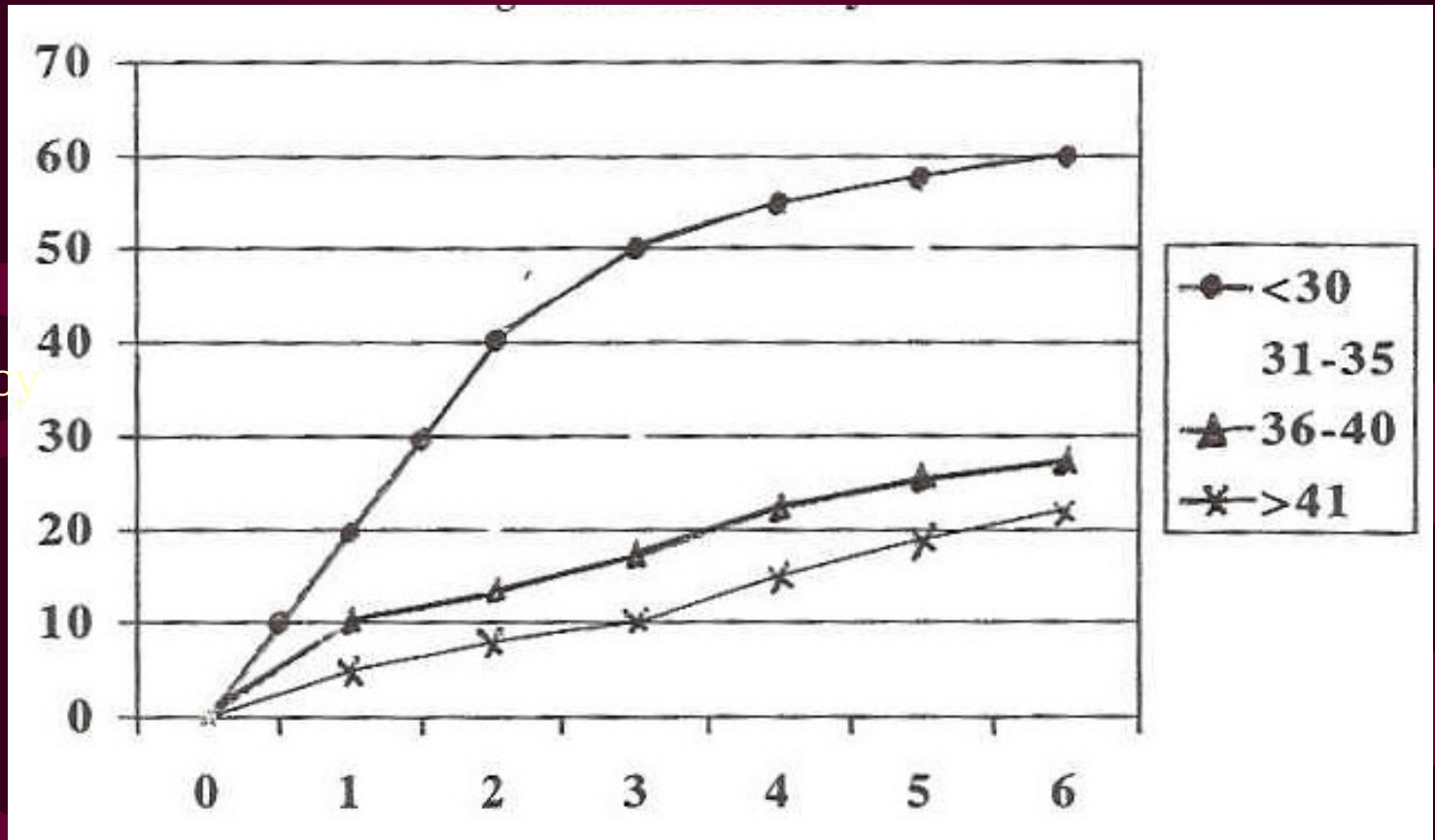
- Primary infertility
 - a couple that has never conceived
- Secondary infertility
 - infertility that occurs after previous pregnancy regardless of outcome

Conception rates for fertile couples



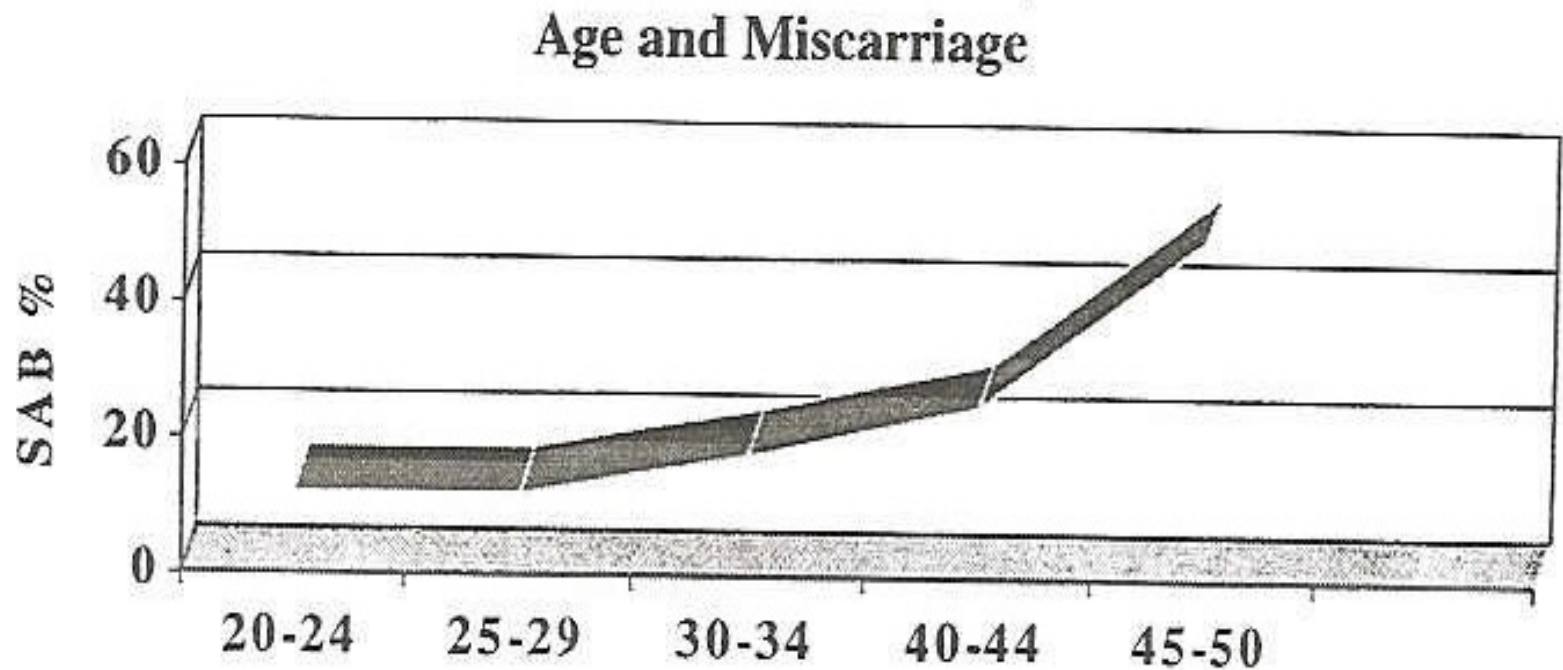
Age and Pregnancy

Pregnancy
Rates %



Cycle number

Age and related miscarriage



Causes of Infertility

- Anovulation (10-20%)
- Anatomic defects of the female genital tract (30-40%)
- Abnormal spermatogenesis (40%)
- Unexplained (10%)

Evaluation of the Infertile couple

- History and Physical exam
- Semen analysis
- Thyroid and prolactin evaluation
- Determination of ovulation
 - Basal body temperature record
 - Serum progesterone
 - Ovarian reserve testing
- Hysterosalpingogram

Abnormalities of Spermatogenesis

Male Factor

- 40% of the cause for infertility
- Sperm is constantly produced by the germinal epithelium of the testicle
 - Sperm generation time 73 days
 - Sperm production is thermoregulated
 - 1° F less than body temperature
- Both men and women can produce anti-sperm antibodies which interfere with the penetration of the cervical mucus

Semen Analysis (SA)

- Obtained by masturbation
- Provides immediate information
 - Quantity
 - Morphology
 - Quality
 - Motility
 - Density of the sperm
- Abstain from coitus 2 to 3 days
- Collect all the ejaculate
- Analyze within 1 hour
- A normal semen analysis excludes male factor 90% of the time

Normal Values for SA

Volume	- 2.0 ml or more
Sperm Concentration	20 million/ml or more
Motility	- 50% forward progression 25% rapid progression
Viscosity	- Liquification in 30-60 min
Morphology	- 30% or more normal forms
pH	- 7.2-7.8
WBC	- Fewer than 1 million/ml

Causes for male infertility

- 42% varicocele
 - repair if there is a low count or decreased motility
- 22% idiopathic
- 14% obstruction
- 20% other (genetic abnormalities)

Abnormal Semen Analysis

- Azospermia
 - Klinefelter's (1 in 500)
 - Hypogonadotropic-hypogonadism
 - Ductal obstruction (absence of the Vas deferens)
- Oligospermia
 - Anatomic defects
 - Endocrinopathies
 - Genetic factors
 - Exogenous (e.g. heat)
- Abnormal volume
 - Retrograde ejaculation
 - Infection
 - Ejaculatory failure

Evaluation of Abnormal SA

- Repeat semen analysis in 30 days
- Physical examination
 - Testicular size
 - Varicocele
- Laboratory tests
 - Testosterone level
 - FSH (spermatogenesis- Sertoli cells)
 - LH (testosterone- Leydig cells)
- Referral to urology

Evaluation of Ovulation

Menstruation

- Ovulation occurs 13-14 times per year
- Menstrual cycles on average are Q 28 days with ovulation around day 14
- Luteal phase
 - dominated by the secretion of progesterone
 - released by the corpus luteum
- Progesterone causes
 - Thickening of the endocervical mucus
 - Increases the basal body temperature (0.6° F)
- Involution of the corpus luteum causes a fall in progesterone and the onset of menses

Ovulation

- A history of regular menstruation suggests regular ovulation
- The majority of ovulatory women experience
 - fullness of the breasts
 - decreased vaginal secretions
 - abdominal bloating
 - mild peripheral edema
 - slight weight gain
 - depression
- Absence of PMS symptoms may suggest anovulation

Diagnostic studies to confirm Ovulation

- Basal body temperature
 - Inexpensive
 - Accurate
- Endometrial biopsy
 - Expensive
 - Static information
- Serum progesterone
 - After ovulation rises
 - Can be measured
- Urinary ovulation-detection kits
 - Measures changes in urinary LH
 - Predicts ovulation but does not confirm it

Basal Body Temperature

- Excellent screening tool for ovulation
 - Biphasic shift occurs in 90% of ovulating women
- Temperature
 - drops at the time of menses
 - rises two days after the lutenizing hormone (LH) surge
- Ovum released one day prior to the first rise
- Temperature elevation of more than 16 days suggests pregnancy

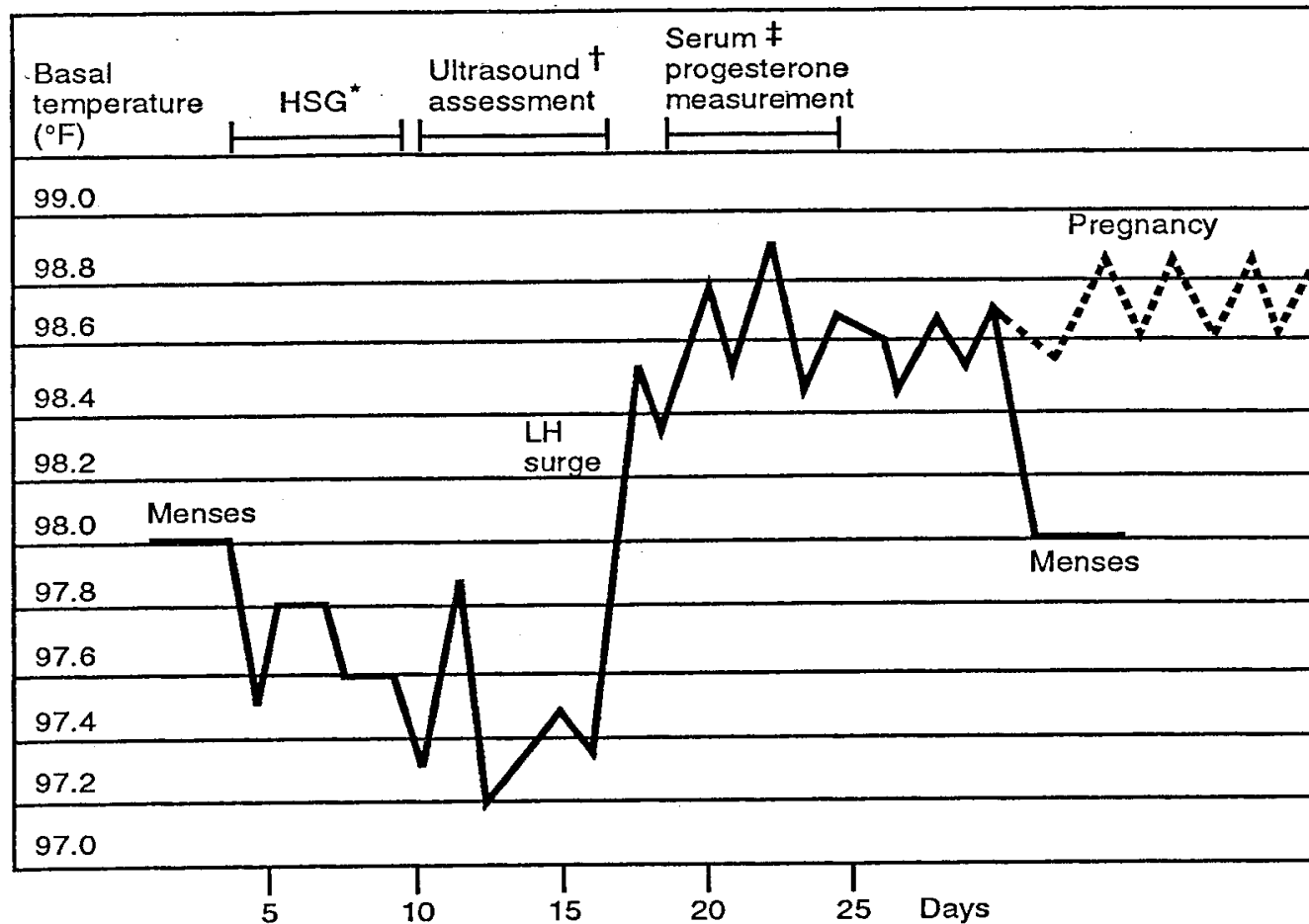


FIGURE 39.3. Ovulation associated biphasic basal body temperature pattern.

*Preferred time for hysterosalpingogram (HSG) testing.

†Preferred timing for sonographic assessment for ovulation.

‡Optimal interval for serum progesterone measurement for ovulation.

Serum Progesterone

- Progesterone starts rising with the LH surge
 - drawn between day 21-24
- Mid-luteal phase
 - >10 ng/ml suggests ovulation

Anovulation

Anovulation

Symptoms

Evaluation*

- Irregular menstrual cycles
- Amenorrhea
- Hirsutism
- Acne
- Galactorrhea
- Increased vaginal secretions
- Follicle stimulating hormone
- Lutenizing hormone
- Thyroid stimulating hormone
- Prolactin
- Androstenedione
- Total testosterone
- DHEAS

*Order the appropriate tests based on the clinical in

Anatomic Disorders of the Female Genital Tract



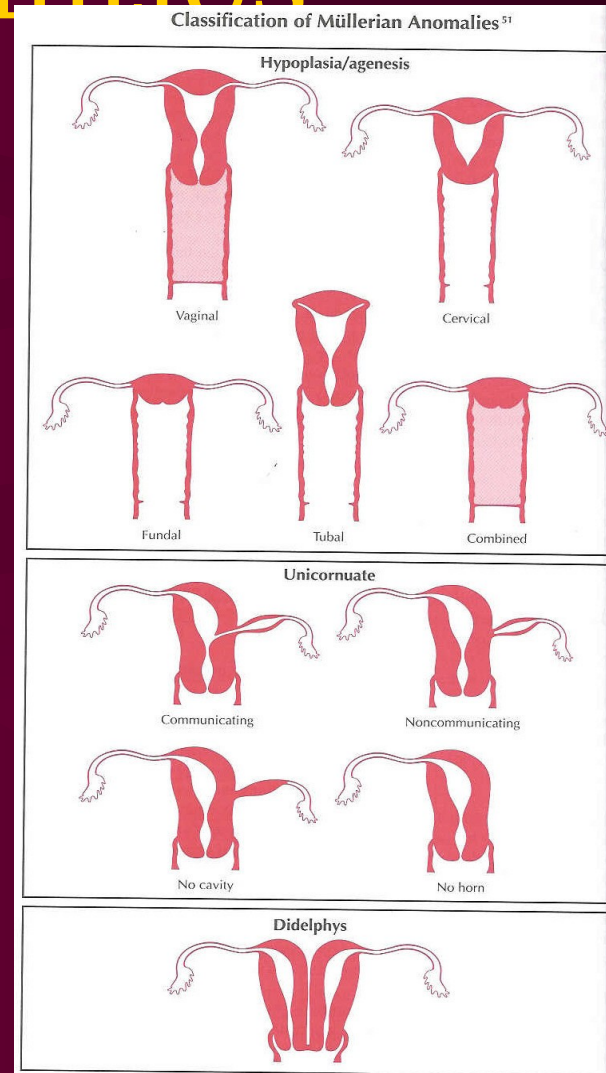
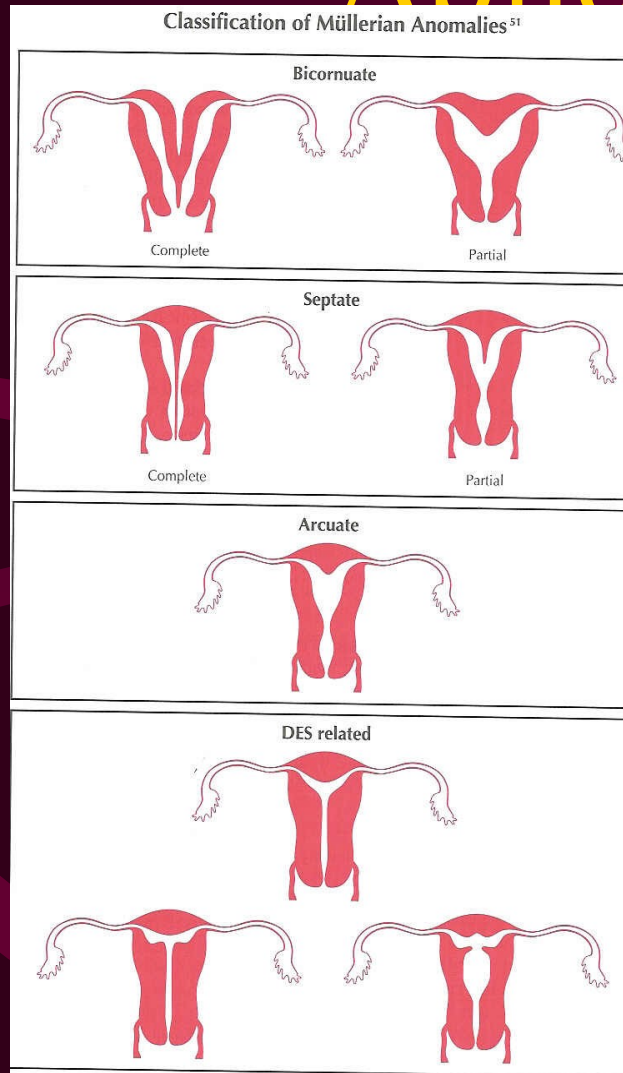
Sperm transport, Fertilization, & Implantation

- The female genital tract is not just a conduit
 - facilitates sperm transport
 - cervical mucus traps the coagulated ejaculate
 - the fallopian tube picks up the egg
- Fertilization must occur in the proximal portion of the tube
 - the fertilized oocyte cleaves and forms a zygote
 - enters the endometrial cavity at 3 to 5 days
- Implants into the secretory endometrium for growth and development

Acquired Disorders

- Acute salpingitis
 - Alters the functional integrity of the fallopian tube
 - *N. gonorrhea* and *C. trachomatis*
- Intrauterine scarring
 - Can be caused by curettage
- Endometriosis, scarring from surgery, tumors of the uterus and ovary
 - Fibroids, endometriomas
- Trauma

Congenital Anatomic Abnormalities



Hysterosalpingogram

- An X-ray that evaluates the internal female genital tract
 - architecture and integrity of the system
- Performed between the 7th and 11th day of the cycle
- Diagnostic accuracy of 70%



Hysterosalpingogram

- The endometrial cavity
 - Smooth
 - Symmetrical
- Fallopian tubes
 - Proximal 2/3 slender
 - Ampulla is dilated
- Dye should spill promptly



Unexplained infertility

- 10% of infertile couples will have a completely normal workup
- Pregnancy rates in unexplained infertility
 - no treatment 1.3-4.1%
 - clomid and intrauterine insemination 8.3%
 - gonadotropins and intrauterine insemination 17.1%

Treatment of the Infertile Couple

Inadequate Spermatogenesis

- Eliminate alterations of thermoregulation
- Clomiphene citrate is occasionally used for induction of spermatogenesis
 - 20% success
- In vitro fertilization may facilitate fertilization
- Artificial insemination with donor sperm is often successful

Anovulation

- Restore ovulation
 - Administer ovulation inducing agents
- Clomiphene citrate
 - Antiestrogen
 - Combines and blocks estrogen receptors at the hypothalamus and pituitary causing a negative feedback
 - Increases FSH production
 - stimulates the ovary to make follicles
- Given for 5 days in the early part of the cycle
- Maximum dose is usually 150mg

Superovulatory Medications

- If no response with clomid then gonadotropins- FSH (e.g. pergonal) can be administered intramuscularly
 - This is usually given under the guidance of someone who specializes in infertility
- This therapy is expensive and patients need to be followed closely
- Adverse effects
 - Hyperstimulation of the ovaries
 - Multiple gestation
 - Fetal wastage

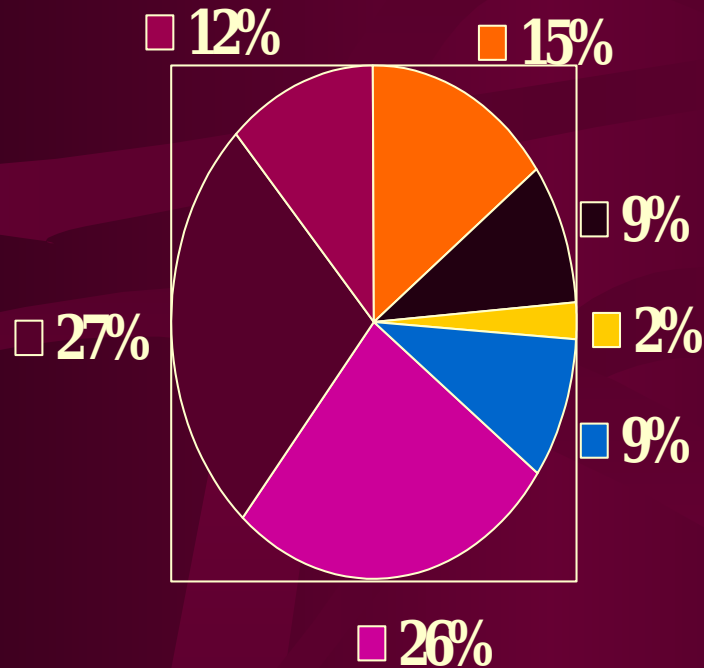
Anatomic Abnormalities

- Surgical treatments
 - Lysis of adhesions
 - Septoplasty
 - Tuboplasty
 - Myomectomy
- Surgery may be performed
 - laparoscopically
 - hysteroscopically
- If the fallopian tubes are beyond repair one must consider in vitro fertilization

Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)

- Explosion of ART has occurred in the last decade.
- These technologies help provide infertile couples with tools to bypass the normal mechanisms of gamete transportation.
- Probability of pregnancy in healthy couples is 30-40% per cycle, live birth rate 25%.
 - this varies depending on age

Primary Diagnosis of Women Undergoing ART- 1998



- Tubal factor
- Male factor
- Ovulation dysfxn
- Endometriosis
- Unexplained
- Uterine factor
- Other

Emotional Impact

- Infertility places a great emotional burden on the infertile couple.
- The quest for having a child becomes the driving force of the couples relationship.
- The mental anguish that arises from infertility is nearly as incapacitating as the pain of other diseases.
- It is important to address the emotional needs of these patients.

Conclusion

- Infertility should be evaluated after one year of unprotected intercourse.
- History and Physical examination usually will help to identify the etiology.
- If patients fail the initial therapies then the proper referral should be made to a reproductive specialist.

Test Question Case 1

- A couple in their late 20's with primary infertility for 18 months. The woman has regular monthly cycles. The husband has never fathered a child. Neither partner has a history of STD's or major illness. No difficulties with erection or ejaculation. Which is the most likely cause of their infertility?
 - A. Anovulation
 - B. Abnormality of Spermatogenesis
 - C. Female Anatomic disorder
 - D. Immunologic disorder

Case 1

- **Spermatogenesis**- causes 40% infertility, anovulation-10-20% and anatomic defects- 30-40%-the majority of which being from salpingitis. Given the history of regular menstrual cycles and no infections, anovulation and anatomic defects is unlikely.
- Which study would not be indicated as part of the initial evaluation?
 - A. Basal Body temperature record
 - B. Semen Analysis
 - C. Hysterosalpingogram
 - D. Diagnostic Laparoscopy

Case 1

- **Diagnostic Laparoscopy**- This should be reserved until the initial tests are completed. All the other tests are used in the initial workup.
- Anovulation is found in the female partner, despite her regular cycles. The next step is?
 - A. Induce ovulation with clomid
 - B. Perform artificial insemination
 - C. Induce ovulation with gonadotropins (pergonal)
 - D. Perform diagnostic laparoscopy to rule out other causes

Case 1

- **Induce ovulation with clomid-**
Gonadotropins would be used if the patient failed clomid. Artificial insemination and laparoscopy are not indicated yet.

Case 2

- A 37 yo women with a history of gonococcal salpingitis presents with her spouse for evaluation of infertility.
- What study is most indicated on the initial evaluation?
 - A. Basal body temperature record
 - B. Semen analysis
 - C. Hysterosalpingogram
 - D. Endometrial Biopsy

Case 2

- Without evidence of anovulation the endometrial bx is not indicated. The couple should have A, B, and C.
- The HSG reveals bilateral tubal obstruction. A consultant recommends she not have surgery because of the poor prognosis of pregnancy.

What should be recommended next?

- A. Intrauterine insemination
- B. In vitro fertilization
- C. No therapy at all
- D. Adoption

Case 2

- Because of the obstruction in the tubes the only appropriate therapy would be in vitro fertilization. Insemination would not get the sperm past the obstruction. Adoption is also an option.

Questions?

